7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

wise investment to spend some money on intelligent research and experimentation in this field. The program of buildings should also include, as suggested above, the construction of teachers' houses—particularly for women teachers—in places where they are not otherwise available.

More attention might well be paid to the equipment of new and existing schools. The libraries, for instance, are generally poor: the number of books is small; they are not chosen with reference to the needs of the children for whom they are meant; their arrangement and display leave much to be desired; and the service provided is very unsatisfactory. No proper individual records of students' reading are maintained and no imaginative steps are taken to stimulate the desire to read and to make the library a dynamic and integral part of the school and of the life of the students. The library often consists simply of a few crowded, dust-laden bookshelves in one of the classrooms to which students have access at odd times and for short periods for borrowing books. School libraries not only should be stocked with a large number of well-displayed and suitable books but should be made the most pleasant and attractive place in the school.

The laboratory and workshop facilities provided, even in full-fledged secondary schools, are also inadequate. There can be no proper teaching of science or crafts unless the equipment is greatly improved and practical work is given its due place. Apparently there is no examination in practical work at all at the end of the secondary school, and obviously there can be none so long as most schools have no laboratories or workshops, or very poor apologies for them. In fact, of the large number of secondary schools visited, only two, one government institution and one foreign school, had adequate laboratories. Under the circumstances, science is generally taught theoretically, as a lesson from the printed book or as a lecture by the teacher, with occasional demonstration of experiments by him in front of the class. This kind of vicarious experimentation, which never allows the students to handle any apparatus, does little to foster the scientific attitude. The provision of laboratory facilities will not by itself, however, make any great difference—what is needed is the introduction of activity methods in the teaching of science and the use of science as an instru-

8:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
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874 ics in agricultural areas. Foreign advisers and instructors are being extensively employed. *Commercial:* secondary commercial schools in Baghdad, Mosul, Najaf, with night classes in Baghdad and Najaf. Commercial classes have been introduced into the ordinary secondary school curriculum in various cities. *Nursing and Domestic Science:* Schools of Domestic Science, Nursing, Midwifery in Baghdad. It has been proposed that instruction in the state vocational schools should be of such a standard that graduates could proceed at once to the relevant higher institutions. Other vocational establishments are the Iraq State Railways workshop training school in Baghdad and the IPC's technical training centre in Kirkuk.

873 An Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad gives instruction in music, painting, sculpture, and drama and trains teachers in most of these subjects.

873 217 *Department of Antiquities.* The Department of Antiquities maintains an extensive programme of excavation, restoration, research and publication and has gained recognition for its work in international academic circles. It controls five museums in Baghdad, one each at Samarra and Babylon, and has recently opened one in Mosul.

Economic Survey

651 439 433 The greater part of Iraq's national revenue will soon be drawn from her oil, which represents an important fraction of the world's supply. Her general economic organization is nevertheless agronomic. Agriculture and animal husbandry practically suffice for her internal requirements of foodstuffs and provide, after oil, most of her exports.

135 Apart from oil, raw materials are sparse. There are deposits of salt, low-grade bituminous coal, gypsum, and sulphur and, in more limited quantities, of potassium nitrate, crystal quartz, sandstone, and dolomite. Building stone is found only in the 339 342 hill districts; in the alluvial plain mud and reeds are the common building materials of the poor, but houses of locally made burnt bricks are common in the towns.

185 652 [511] In 1950 a Development Board was established with the function of drawing up and, after parliamentary approval, executing a general economic and financial plan for developing the country's resources and raising the standard of living; it was to include but not be limited to projects for water conservancy, flood control, irrigation, drainage, industry, mining, and improvement of river, land, and air communications. For the execution of its programme the Board has been allocated 70 per

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 MI Middle East
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x873 y876 initiative and activity of the teacher in class. Great stress is laid on the teacher's explanation in class by inductive, deductive, lecture, and demonstration methods according to the subject. Not enough emphasis is laid on student activity which should develop understanding and knowledge of what the students are studying. They, therefore, come to rely on the teacher for clarifying the subject. Theirs is to learn what has been explained and be ready to recite it back when required. In this way the "spoon-feeding" of the primary school is carried over to the secondary school, and the students do not as a rule acquire a habit of self-reliance and self-instruction.

It is largely a textbook method of teaching. The textbooks are chosen by the Ministry of Education and are uniform for all public schools and most of the private schools, which usually choose to follow the government program. The textbook is followed closely lesson by lesson and chapter by chapter, the students relying on it and on the teacher's explanation in preparing their lessons. Little, if any, reading is done outside the textbook, since most of the teachers do not assign reference work. It is the rare teacher who tries to stimulate students' interest in reading outside magazines and books, fiction or otherwise.

●[217] Intermediate-school libraries are small and on the whole little used, except where an enterprising principal or teacher tries to take charge of it and encourage students to read. Preparatory-school libraries are usually larger and in the case of the older schools may exceed 1,000 books.

In the field of science, demonstration by the teacher predominates in the intermediate schools. This is limited sometimes by the equipment as well as by lack of ingenuity of the teacher. The latter is particularly true in the field of biology where, if charts and models are not existent, the enterprising teacher can find a great deal of material in nature. Some good teachers, however, have made their own biology charts, and in one instance a teacher of biology with artistic talent produced a large number of excellent charts. In the preparatory schools more individual work is carried by the students where equipment is adequate. A great deal of room for improvement exists in the care of the laboratory equipment, in a much greater use of it, in working out laboratory manuals for secondary schools, and in general in greater effort to make the laboratory the center of science teaching. At the same time more excursions for nature study and for visits to establishments of scientific interest are needed.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS

x873 Extracurricular activities are becoming more popular in the secondary schools, though not to the same extent as in some more advanced countries.

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 Mi Middle East
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*874 *875 the atom. Mathematics courses begin with elementary calculus, analytical geometry, and higher algebra, continue with advanced courses in these subjects, and end up with differential equations and interpolation in the fourth year.

Before graduation a student from any section must write two theses—one in the field of education or psychology, the other on a subject within the field of his specialization—and pass a comprehensive oral examination in both fields.

Equipment.—The fact that the Higher Teachers College was just getting re-established at the outbreak of World War II subjected it to delays and shortages in equipment. However, the government was rather generous in its budgetary allotment, and every attempt was made to equip it as well as possible.

Laboratories were started from nothing in the summer of 1937, only two years before the war. Large orders for equipment placed in England and various European countries gradually materialized, so that by 1941 the laboratories were supplied with essential, if not adequate, apparatus, chemicals, glassware, microscopes and slides, charts, and specimens. During the last year of the war the shortage of chemicals was felt, and the increase in number of students made the number of available microscopes inadequate. In 1945 the College was in great need of a workshop for repairing scientific apparatus and trained technicians to do the work.

For geography a good collection of Arabic, English, and German maps and globes has been brought together. Maps of Iraq of various scales have been supplied by the Iraqi Survey Department. There is a small geological collection, and a biological museum is contemplated.

● [217] The library grew from about 500 volues in 1937 to 9,252 in October 1945. About two-thirds of the books are in English; the rest, except for a few hundred in French and Turkish, are in Arabic. In spite of the difficulties of importing books in wartime, the library managed to add from 1,200 to 1,500 volumes to its collection yearly. The library has a fairly representative list of periodicals, but it was impossible during the war to get American magazines regularly, and there are many gaps in the files. Almost all the important Arabic periodicals are received and about 35 English and American periodicals. The Dewey Decimal system of classification is used. Work was proceeding in 1945 on a card catalog of authors, subjects, and titles.

Students make heavy use of library books for reference and assigned reading, but borrow few books for their own enjoyment.

Staff and administration.—In 1945–46 the staff of the Higher Teachers

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 M1 Middle East
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and the boys take the public certificate examinations. Instruction in mathematics and science and some other subjects is in English, but care is taken to cover the appropriate vocabularies in Arabic. An extensively equipped laboratory makes individual experiment possible in physics, chemistry, and biology. A large library circulates many books for collateral reading. Informal organizations include religious groups, the International Relations Club, various sports associations, a debating society, and a staff which publishes a school paper.

Another foreign agency which is making an important contribution to education in Iraq is the British Council. Institutes have been established in Baghdad, Basrah, Mosul, and Kirkuk in which young men and young women are given an opportunity to prepare for proficiency examinations in English as well as for the London matriculation and intermediate examinations. Classes are held in the mornings for women and in the late afternoons and evenings for men. Fees are nominal and the classes are popular. A model kindergarten has also been established in Baghdad which is attended largely by children of English-speaking parents. Clubs which have both social and educational aims have been established in the larger cities. Lecture series, musical evenings, and discussion programs are regularly scheduled for these clubs. Educational films are distributed to schools and organizations in Baghdad. Although not a responsibility of the British Council, the reading rooms established in the smaller towns and larger villages by the Public Relations Department of the British Embassy are much used. Current magazines in English and Arabic are regularly supplied to these reading rooms and a small library of selected titles is available. A radio is usually supplied also.